



# YFPI Newsletter

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## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:



If you have mental health concerns about your fire assessment or intervention, contact the Minnesota State mental health consultant for youth firesetters (see page 2).

Jerrod Brown: [jerrod01234brown@live.com](mailto:jerrod01234brown@live.com) or call (651) 734-5517

## From the State YFPI Coordinator

Here we are at spring break already! Our busy season is coming up, and now is a great time to prepare. Consider printing out the assessment forms: intake, participation release, assessment tool, release of confidential information, interviewer's observations, assessment summary, pre-tests and promise certificate. If you keep them together in folders, you'll be ready to go when they're needed. Please feel free to contact your regional coordinator as a mentor. It may be possible for you to sit in on an assessment in your area in order to gain experience. You can find

their contact information on this [link](#):

If you are interested in enhancing your local team, this video may be helpful:

[link](#)

Remember that identifying children who are starting fires is equally as critical as reporting your intervention activity. Please consider using YFIRES for reporting, or you can get your intervention to me and I will enter data for you. This can be done by either sending me a copy of your intake form or through a simple telephone conversation.

If you need any kind of support, please let me know. I'm here to help.

Have a nice spring!



## 2016 YFPI Advisory Schedule (Tentative)

At our first joint meeting with the MN Fire & Injury Prevention group, we discussed having the meetings jointly in conjunction with the Chief's Pub Ed committee. Because most of us wear many hats, this will minimize the number of meetings. Let's try it and reassess at our summer conference on July 28 and 29.

### Chief's Pub Ed Committee Meetings

**May 11: 1 p.m. in Savage**

**Aug. 10: Looking for host/location**

**November: Looking for host/location**

# Welcome Our New State Mental Health Consultant

If you know someone who is interested in YFIT, please let [Kathi](#) know.

Please welcome our new state mental health consultant, Jerrod Brown! Jerrod is now on retainer through the State Fire Marshal Division. He has been working with Minnesota YFPI Specialists on a pro-bono basis for nearly two years. He is now available for consultation to both YFPI specialists and mental health care professionals. If you have a complex case, or just want to make sure you are on the right track with a particular youth-involved firesetting case, feel free to contact him. Jerrod is also working in partnership with Kathi Osmonson on identifying

and training mental health care providers and professionals across the State of Minnesota who are interested in learning more about the complexities of working with children who engage in firesetting behaviors.

Additionally, if a child with whom you are working with is already in therapy, Jerrod can assist the current clinician on special mental health issues to consider when working with firesetters. Jerrod is instrumental in teaching us how to work with mentally

challenged children by conducting research and offering training sessions to us. Consider inviting him to one of your regional meetings.

He will be working on a special curriculum for educational intervention we can present to challenged kids, as well as trainings for mental health care professionals about working with firesetters.

Jerrod Brown: [jerrod01234brown@live.com](mailto:jerrod01234brown@live.com) or call (651) 734-5517

Jerrod Brown, M.A., M.S., M.S., M.S., is the Treatment Director for Pathways Counseling Center, Inc. Pathways provides programs and services benefiting individuals affected by mental illness and addiction. Jerrod is also the founder and CEO of the American Institute for the Advancement of Forensic Studies (AIAFS), lead developer and program director of an online graduate degree program in Forensic Mental Health from Concordia University (St. Paul, MN), and the editor-in-chief of *Forensic Scholars Today* (FST). Jerrod holds graduate certificates in Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), Other Health Disabilities (OHD), and Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI). Jerrod is certified as a Youth Firesetter Prevention/Intervention Specialist, Thinking for a Change (T4C) Facilitator, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD) Trainer, and a Problem Gambling Treatment Provider. Jerrod is currently working on his doctoral dissertation in psychology.



- YFPI Specialist Training:
- Eden Prairie March 29 & 30
- Program Manager Training:
- Duluth, May 2016
- Summer Conference July 28 & 29, 2016 Bemidji

# The Survey Says:

## Thanks to all of you YFPI Specialist Students Who Participated in the Survey!

As some of you know, I sent a survey to 60 students who have gone through the National Fire Academy YFPI Specialist class since the Minnesota Certification has been available. This was an effort to get a feel for your confidence level in working with youth firesetters and to find out whether you have any needs that aren't currently being met.

Of the 60 surveys sent, 5 came back as invalid email addresses, and 24 participants responded. I found that 75% of you are male and 37% of you have been in the fire service for 20+ years. If this is you, please consider succession planning for YFPI: Try to find a newer firefighter who is interested in the program whom you could mentor. The results show 69.57% respondents currently hold a state certification for YFPI Specialist. Not surprisingly, I found that the more interventions you have done, the more confident you are interviewing kids and families. For example, 82.6% of you have some level of confidence; those of you who aren't confident have done two or fewer interventions, and most often, none.

**Needs:** Top needs were outreach with other agencies and services to report needs and build relationships if a child needs more than educational intervention. These can be met by contacting Jerrod Brown (see page 2). Practice and mentorship was the next most popular answer. If that was yours, consider calling your regional program manager and asking to shadow an intervention. Next was time. We all could use more! As for the need to get the word out about the program and solicit support from the chief and local fire departments. If you have any specific ideas beyond publishing articles, attending regional meetings, social media and email blasts, please let me know. If you need to get your practical completed for certification, [register here](#) or show up on day 2 of any 2-day class. Lastly, 2 of the 11 respondents to this question have everything they need. Yay!

**Reporting:** Paper or excel files are being kept by 39% of respondents. Please make sure the information gets to the division so we can make sure these cases get reported. Call Kathi with the data and she can enter it into YFIRES, the national database, or talk to your regional program manager about it. This data is critical for to knowing what our youth firesetting problem is and achieving buy-in from various agencies, including chiefs. Of the remaining respondents, 22% have not had anything to report yet and 16% use image trend. When using image trend, please make sure playing of age as a factor are coded. If intervention is done, please use the JFSI walk-in module. Investigation file, Minnesota Model and scan to run report were also mentioned.

**Follow-up:** The good news is that follow-up is being done at 6 and 12 months in most cases. Please remember to track this data also, because it is critical to program evaluation.





Remember to visit our website, where updates are being added regularly. [link](#)

## Counseling Children Who Play With Fire

Posted in: [Articles](#)

Tags:



Here is an article from Community Health Strategies for our partners in social services and mental health. [link](#)

## Flamethrowers take Stupid to the Next Level



What were they thinking?

[link](#)

**Thanks for  
all you do!**



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